

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims 2-6. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to improve their form. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

In the May 20, 2010 Final Office Action, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in lacking antecedent basis for "the hose pack." In response, Applicants filed an Amendment After Final on July 19, 2010, *inter alia*, amending claim 4 to improve its form, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants are again making this amendment herein as the August 17, 2010 Advisory Action checked both Box 3 indicating that the amendment would not be entered and Box 7 b) indicating that the amendment would be entered for purposes of appeal.

Also in the May 20, 2010 Final Office Action, claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bosna U.S. Patent No. 4,539,465* in view of *Rigdon et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,066,833*. The remaining claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bosna* and *Rigdon et al.* and further in view of *Benfield U.S. Patent No. 3,594,534*.

Applicants' July 19, 2010 Amendment After Final traversed this rejection and presented arguments distinguishing the prior art. In the August 17, 2010 Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the July 19, 2010 Amendment After Final failed to place the application in condition for allowance because a wire core was said to be disclosed in *Bosna* in FIG. 2 reference number 30, *Rigdon et al.* was said to show a housing or container 507a, b with free space 509a, b, and *Benfield* was said to teach a quick-lock.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in claim 6, Applicants' invention provides a welding wire storage device for a welding system including a housing having a free space, a first end region and a second end region opposite the first end region, a wire core surrounding a welding wire arcuately arranged to lie freely in the free space of the housing, the wire core having a first end fixed in the first end region of the housing, a measuring device for detecting deflection of the wire core, a guide element on the second end region displaceably mounting the wire core, a wire guide hose for the wire core, and first and second coupling mechanisms arranged on the housing for connection with the wire guide hose.

Applicants' previous Amendments filed February 1, 2010 and June 22, 2009 discussed in detail the differences between Applicants' welding wire storage device as recited in claim 6 and *Bosna and Rigdon et al.* For example, *Bosna* fails to show a wire buffer being arranged between the welding apparatus and the welding torch within a housing, with the wire core being arcuately arranged to lie freely in a free space of the housing as shown, for example, in FIG. 2 of Applicants' disclosure.

Although the Examiner has taken the position that reference number 30 of FIG. 2 of *Bosna* discloses a wire core, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's position is unfounded as reference number 30 of *Bosna* is an electrode wire 30, not a wire core. See column 2, lines 59-65 of *Bosna*. The electrode wire 30 for the welding gun 16 is stored on the spool or reel 28 and is fed to the gun via wire straightener means 32 and wire feed means 34. See column 2, lines 45-66 and FIGS. 1 to 3 of *Bosna*. It is respectfully submitted that there is no wire buffer between the wire storage spool or reel and the welding gun of *Bosna*, which enables the temporary storage of a small amount of welding wire in the case of different wire feeding speeds or at a change in the feeding directions of the welding wire, as is the case with Applicants' welding wire storage device as recited in

claim 6. With *Bosna's* device, it is not possible to temporarily store the welding wire within a wire buffer.

Rigdon et al. fails to show a wire buffer including a housing and an arcuately arranged wire core surrounding the welding wire lying freely in a free space of the housing as recited in Applicants' claim 6. The loop 509a shown in FIG. 27 of *Rigdon et al.* shows no wire core such as is shown in Applicants' FIGS. 4-7. If the loop of the welding wire illustrated in FIG. 27 of *Rigdon et al.* were to be considered as a wire buffer, then the wire buffer would be arranged behind the welding wire spool. In contrast, with Applicants' welding wire storage device for a welding system, the wire buffer 40 is arranged between the welding apparatus 1 and the welding torch 10 as can be seen from FIG. 2 of Applicants' disclosure.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that one skilled in the art would have no reason to modify *Bosna's* wire feed system so as to have *Rigdon et al.'s* containers 507a, 508b with accumulation zones 509a, 509b. In *Rigdon et al.'s* arrangement, the welding wire has to be conveyed over the entire hosepack so that large friction losses would occur and the wire feed response behavior would be impaired as discussed in the paragraph bridging

pages 2-3 of Applicants' disclosure. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not modify *Bosna* with *Rigdon et al.* as suggested by the Examiner.

The newly-cited reference *Benfield* simply shows a welding apparatus with a rotatably mounted welding torch and a lock means 51 for retaining barrel tip 50 in a selected position. Within the arc shaped welding torch, there is no welding wire buffer which enables temporary storage of small amounts of welding wire during a transportation of the welding wire in a reversed direction.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6, together with claims 2-5 which depend thereon, are patentable over the cited references whether considered alone or in combination.

Claim 5 is dependent on claim 1 and further specifies that the housing is arranged between a welding apparatus or wire feeder and a welding torch, that a hose pack is arranged directly, without interruption, between the welding apparatus or wire feeder and the welding torch, and that the wire core is interrupted in the housing.

Nowhere in *Bosna* is there a welding wire storage device of the type described by Applicant with a housing having a free space arranged between a welding apparatus or wire feeder and a welding torch. Contrary to the Examiner's position, it is respectfully submitted that flexible conduit 36 cannot be considered a housing.

Although the Examiner uses *Ringdon et al.* to teach a housing having free space, referring to FIG. 27, even if a housing having free space were disclosed in *Ringdon et al.*, it would not be arranged between a welding apparatus or wire feeder and a welding torch.

Furthermore, the Examiner has taken the position that in *Bosna*, a measuring device 34 can be used for detecting deflection of the wire core 30. Element 34 in *Bosna*, however, refers to a wire feed means (see *Bosna*, column 2, line 61) and there would be no deflection in the relevant part of *Bosna* to measure. The Examiner refers to element 34 being arranged in the housing, with that housing being arranged between the wire feeder 28 and a welding torch 16. Even if the housing could be defined as some portion of the base plate 22, *Bosna* defines element 34 as a wire

feed means, and therefore element 34 could not be contained between the wire feeder and a welding torch 16.

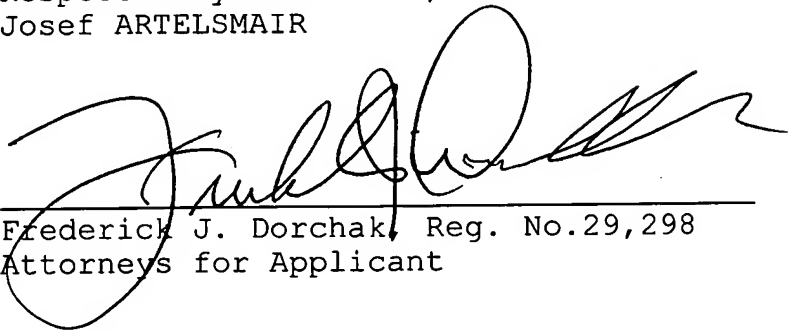
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is patentable over the prior art for this additional reason.

Applicants would also like to advise the Examiner that corresponding patents have been granted in Austria, China, Europe and Japan.

In summary, claims 4 and 5 have been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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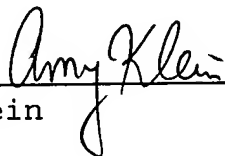


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